

of El Camino and in conjunction with the development of the few vacant parcels along the west side.

**6.4.2 Arterial Street Policy:** Arterial streets are 4 lane streets with controlled parking and restricted access to adjacent parcels. Within the downtown area, the designated arterial streets shall be Ralston Avenue, Old County Road (south of Ralston), and Harbor Boulevard (east of El Camino Real).

**Guideline.** Arterial streets comprise the major traffic carrier facilities within Belmont. They link residential, commercial and industrial areas with the U.S. 101 freeway and highway system. They also provide access to other transportation facilities. The following guidelines apply:

1. **Ralston Avenue.** This street is the only east-west arterial route in the Belmont downtown. It varies in width from 2 to 4 travel lanes. Its pavement width is between 48 and 64 feet, with right-of-way provided between 84 and 100 feet. It connects U.S. 101 with other regional routes, and State Route 82 within the Belmont downtown. Within the downtown Ralston is 4 lanes with turn lanes provided at Hiller Street, Old County Road, El Camino Real and Sixth Avenue. Traffic signals are provided at Hiller, Old County Road, El Camino Real and Sixth. The traffic signalization provided on Ralston at El Camino Real is integrated with the signal at Old County Road. When train service interrupts the signal by stopping traffic along Ralston Avenue, the system switches the traffic flows to north and southbound Old County Road and El Camino Real. Unfortunately, when the train gates are lifted, the signal system starts at the beginning of the controller program rather than with the last signal phase activated before the interrupt occurred. Thus, delays on Ralston Avenue may be even longer than necessary as traffic must wait for the appropriate signal to re-occur during the signal sequencing program.
2. **Old County Road.** Old County Road is a two-lane, north-south arterial serving residential, commercial and industrial development east of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. From Ralston Avenue south to Harbor Boulevard, it serves as an arterial and is so designated on the Plan. The street provides access to numerous parcels, driveways and entering-exiting traffic which restricts traffic flow and on-street parking.

Improvements needed to relieve existing and anticipated traffic congestion include increasing off-street parking and limiting access to the extent possible. If on-street parking were eliminated, the road could accommodate four traffic lanes. However, the present development pattern presents a formidable obstacle to providing off-street parking convenient to the various businesses.

This Plan calls for an upgraded roadway designation of Old County Road north of Ralston Avenue from a major collector to an arterial status. North of Ralston Avenue in San Mateo, a new grade separation is being constructed at Laurie Meadows. This improvement will divert portions of the existing traffic on El Camino Real to Old County Road. Therefore, some increase in north-south traffic is expected once the Laurie